

Appl. No. 09/913,902  
Response dated September 9, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2004

### **REMARKS**

This is a response to the office action dated June 9, 2004. Claims 1-38 are pending. Claims 1-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over UMETSU (4,627,803). Claims 34-36 have been allowed. Claims 37 and 38 were withdrawn by the Examiner from consideration as being directed to a non-elected embodiment.

Applicants have cancelled without prejudice claims 1-33 and 37-38 and now request that a notice of allowance be issued.

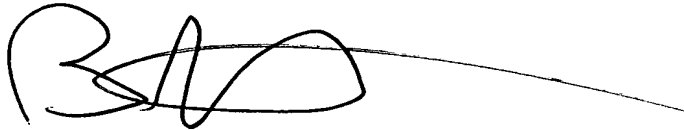
### **CONCLUSION**

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this response timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 9 day of September, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett A. North', is written over a horizontal line.

Brett A. North

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